



17 November 2008

## **INFORMATION PAPER**

**SUBJECT:** West Maui Watershed Project, Maui, Hawai'i

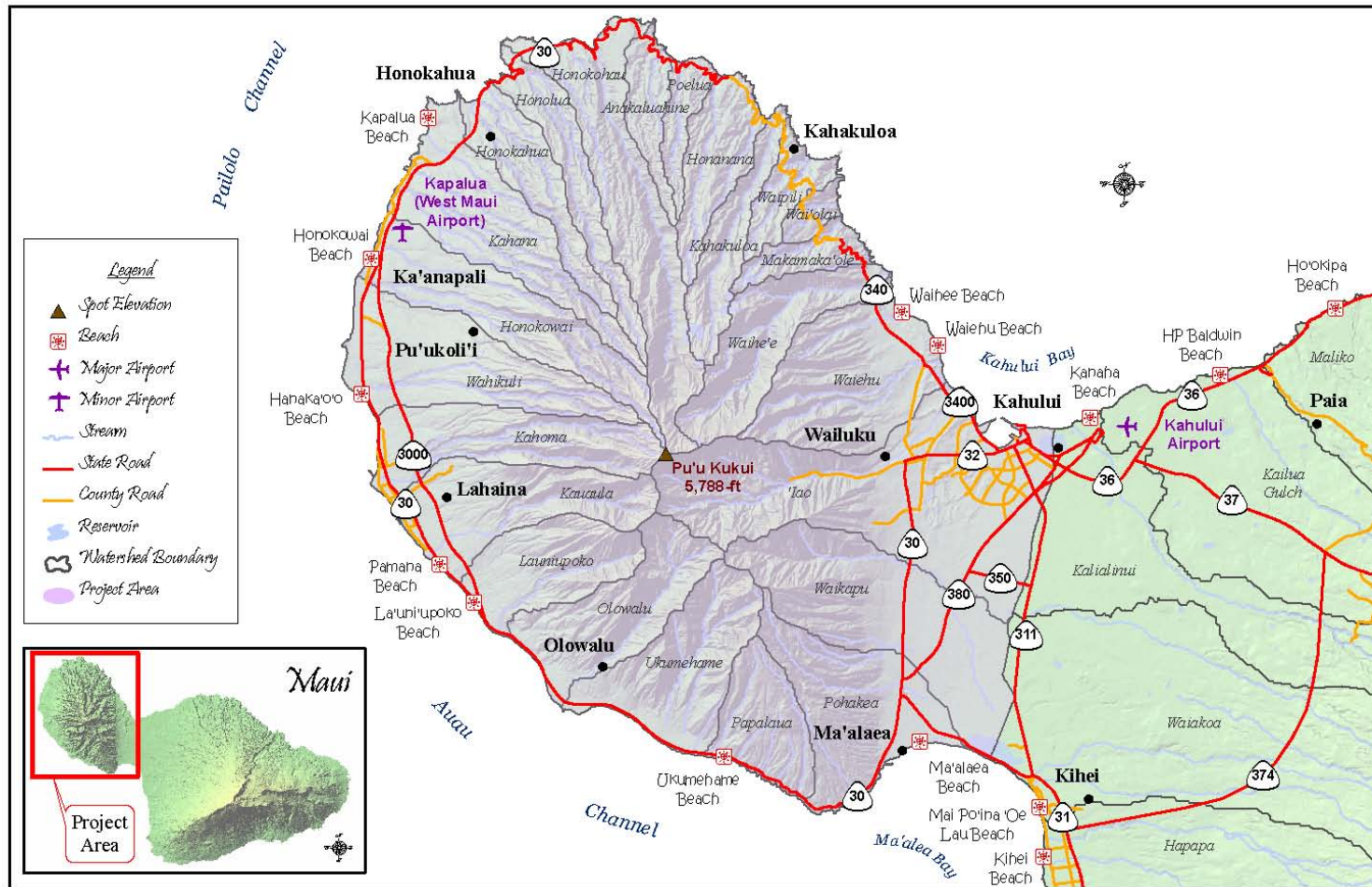
1. Purpose: To provide information on the status of the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The reconnaissance study of the West Maui Watershed Project is authorized under Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874). The local sponsor is the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).

b. The West Maui watershed includes the entire area associated with the West Maui mountains (approximately 90,000 acres) on the island of Maui, Hawai'i. It encompasses all of the West Maui drainages from the south at Mā'alaea, west at Lahaina, north at Honokōhau, and east at Wailuku (see attached map). Ecological resources, including coral reefs, are important cultural resources and are valuable to the economies of West Maui and the State of Hawai'i. The objective of the watershed study is use the Hawaiian ahupua'a concept of resource management to identify recommended measures to solve West Maui's watershed problems, including aquatic, marine and terrestrial ecosystem degradation, threats to water supply quantity and quality, and storm damage.

c. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) previously evaluated the potential for several individual coral reef ecosystem restoration projects in West Maui at the State's request under the Continuing Authorities Program. The proposed projects did not proceed due to funding and project size limitations in the program. In February 2007, the State DLNR requested USACE assistance to perform a multipurpose watershed investigation of West Maui, Hawai'i. Funds in the amount of \$295,000 were provided in the FY08 Energy and Water Appropriation for a new reconnaissance study. The State DLNR, County of Maui, West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District, AMFAC, and Maui Land and Pineapple Company have supported the need for a multipurpose watershed project in West Maui area from the start of the project. Other agencies and organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, University of Hawai'i, State Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Earthjustice, and the Nature Conservancy have recently shown their support for this study.

d. The reconnaissance study is scheduled to be completed in September 2009. USACE is working with the stakeholder community to identify watershed problems, opportunities, and challenges, and various agency programs that may be applied towards implementing potential actions. The result will be a consolidated GIS mapbook identifying data gaps and an integrated plan for agencies, organizations, and land owners to address the watershed problems. This plan will be the basis for justifying future U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agency participation in West Maui watershed activities.



west\_mau\_i\_watershed\_map.mxd

